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**MCAS-Alt Update**

**June 2024**

[www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt/](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt/)

This newsletter is published by DESE to provide Massachusetts educators with information, guidance, and support as they teach students with significant cognitive disabilities and conduct the MCAS Alternate Assessment (the MCAS-Alt).

**Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.**

James Baldwin, writer

**Thank you, educators!**

You completed and submitted approximately 6,200 MCAS-Alt portfolio assessments on behalf of your students.

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As the saying goes, “All good things must end,” which is true of a career as well. It is with mixed emotions that I (Debra) share with you that I will be retiring as of June 30. I would be remiss if I didn’t thank the countless training specialists I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with and my MCAS-Alt team.

I have enjoyed working with you throughout my tenure at the Department. I want you to know that I see your hard work and dedication to the students of Massachusetts, and I appreciate each of you.

1. **2024 Preliminary MCAS-Alt Results**

MCAS-Alt preliminary results for 2024will be available in your school’s DropBox in the DESE [Security Portal](https://gateway.edu.state.ma.us/) on **June 10**. Principals should download and print MCAS-Alt Feedback Forms (FFs) in PDF format for teachers to review. Teachers can compare copies of the students’ strands to the students’ FFs and read the comments, which are intended to improve instruction and the submission of MCAS-Alts in the future. Comments will also describe positive aspects and areas for improvement for the strand. Scored MCAS-Alts will be returned to schools in the fall.

To view the FFs, principals should do the following:

* Log in to the DESE [Security Portal](https://gateway.edu.state.ma.us/edu). (For assistance logging in, contact your [Directory Administrator](https://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/diradmin/dropboxcentral.html).)
* Select the **Application List**.
* Select **DropBox Central**.
* Select **MCAS 2024 Data**.
* Select **MCASalt\_FeedbackForms2024** and download the PDFs for teachers to review.

1. **MCAS-Alt Score Appeals**

The principal, director, or superintendent may submit a score appeal if they believe the score on the FF does not accurately reflect the scoring rubric. The principal or their designee must review the following materials when submitting a score appeal:

* the FF from the scored assessment
* a photocopy of the evidence kept by the school

A score appeal **may not** include the following:

* submission of additional portfolio evidence
* requests to alter information previously submitted
* claims that a clerical error was made by the educator in the original portfolio

The deadline for submission of [score appeals](https://profile.measuredprogress.org/MCAS-Alt/Appeals) is **Friday, June 21, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.**

After submitting the appeal, print the on-screen confirmation for your records. **Results of MCAS-Alt score appeals will be mailed to schools by the end of July.**

Please see the [frequently asked questions](https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt/scoreappeal-faq.html) about MCAS-Alt score appeals. You may also contact Debra Hand at [debra.d.hand@mass.gov](mailto:debra.d.hand@mass.gov) or 781-338-3625 with any questions.

1. **Fall 2024 Statewide Training**
2. **Virtual Training Sessions**

Virtual training sessions will be conducted in the fall (September–October). The back-to-school edition of the MCAS-Alt Update will include specific dates and registration links.

1. **Training Specialists**

Please consider becoming a training specialist for the next school year. It is a worthwhile experience to network with colleagues, assist peers, and offer feedback for the MCAS-Alt process. Applications will be available in the next MCAS-Alt Update.

Thank you for your attention to this information, and have a wonderful summer!

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